

## Message Text

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R 241145Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5997  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USNATO  
USLO PEKING  
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BELGRADE 2435

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT YO AL  
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO TIRANA

1. AUSTRIAN COUNSELOR GAVE EMBOFF ORAL SUMMARY OF REPORT  
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AUSTRIAN AMB LIEDERMANN PREPARED ON BASIS OF HIS TRIP TO  
TIRANA FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. LIEDERMAN IS  
ACCREDITED TO BOTH BELGRADE AND TIRANA BUT AUSTRIANS HAVE  
NO PERMANENT MISSION IN LATTER. LIEDERMANN PRESENTED HIS  
CREDENTIALS JANUARY 7 AND SPENT THREE DAYS IN TIRANA.  
(HE WAS UNABLE TO PREPARE REPORT IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE HE  
WAS ALSO IN CHARGE OF AUSTRIAN CSCE DELEGATION.)

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS WAS SCHEDULED ORIGINALLY FOR AUGUST 1977, BUT ALBANIANS CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE. IN NOVEMBER ALBANIANS INDICATED THEY WERE READY FOR HIM AND LIEDERMANN AGREED TO GO DURING CSCE BREAK.

2. IN TIRANA HE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HAXHI LLESHI. HE ALSO MET WITH FONMIN NESTI NASE, FOREIGN TRADE MIN NEDIA HOXHA, WITH OFFICIALS OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY, AND WITH DIPLOMATS, INCLUDING ROMANIAN AMB WHO IS DEAN OF TIRANA DIP CORPS.

3. ALBANIANS APPEARED INTERESTED IN ENLARGING COOPERATION WITH AUSTRIA. THEY PROPOSED FORMATION OF A MIXED STUDY GROUP ON INCREASING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND SUGGESTED AN AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL COOPERATION. THEY MENTIONED EXCHANGES OF STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, AND EXPERTS BUT NOT SPECIFIC FIELDS OF INTEREST. THEY ALSO SEEMED DESIROUS FOR MORE VISITS ON (WHAT AUSTRIAN CALLED) "POLITICAL" LEVEL. LAST SUCH VISIT TOOK PLACE IN 1976 WHEN AN AUSTRIAN TRADE DELEGATION WENT TO TIRANA. THIS TIME ALBANIANS SUGGESTED AT LEAST ON SUCH ("POLITICAL") VISIT ANNUALLY IN AT LEAST ONE DIRECTION. REGARDING INTENSIFICATION OF RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA, ALBANIANS ALSO MENTIONED (BUT WITHOUT DETAILS) SWITZERLAND AS ANOTHER COUNTRY WITH WHICH THEY DESIRE IMPROVED TIES. LIEDERMANN'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT ALBANIAN WISH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WAS SINCERE. HE  
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SUGGESTED TO VIENNA THAT OFFER FOR TALKS BE ACCEPTED; AND AUSTRIAN GOVT QUICKLY PROPOSED THAT ECON DEL BE RECEIVED IN TIRANA IN SPRING. (LIEDERMANN TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO TIRANA IN LATE APRIL-EARLY MAY.) NO REPLY YET FROM ALBANIANS.

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USNATO

USLO PEKING

EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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4. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON GIVEN BY LLESHI AND FONMIN, LIEDERAMNN WAS TOLD THAT ALBANIA IS SURROUNDED MAINLY BY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS. RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA ARE "NORMAL" BUT THE "REVISIONIST" YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP HEADED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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"REVISIONIST" TITO DOES NOT WANT TO GO FURTHER. ALBANIA WISHES IMPORVED RELATIONS BUT GOY DOES NOT. QUESTION OF ALBANIAN MINORITY IN YUGOSLAVIA IS NO OBSTACLE. ALBANIA IS NOT AFRAID OF ASSIMILATION OF ALBANIANS IN OTHER COUNTIES SINCE ALBANIANS MAINTAIN THEIR NATIONALITY WHEREVER THEY ARE. TIRANA HAS NOTICED THAT IN KOSOVO, ALBANIANS ARE TREATED WELL BUT IN MACEDONIA THEY ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, PARTICULARLY IN JOBS AND EDUCATION. ALBANIA IS PREPARED TO INCREADE ITS EXCHANGE OF PROFESSORS WITH KOSOVO BECAUSE RELATIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN PRISTINA ARE GOOD. BUT THE GOY IS BLOCKING CLOSER COOPERATION BECAUSE IT FEARS THAT YUGOSLAV ALBANIANS WOULD LOOK MORE TO TIRANA THAN TO BELGRADE. TIRANA ESTIMATES THERE ARE ALMOST TWO MILLION ALBANIANS IN YUGOSLAVIA: 1.2 MILLION IN KOSOVO; 500,000 IN MACEDONIA; 150,000 IN MONTENEGRO;

100,000 IN SERBIA; PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 40,000 IN BELGRADE.

5. ALBANIA HAS PRACTICALLY NO RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA. WITH ITALY, IT WILL NOT NORMALIZE RELATIONS UNTIL THE GOI AGREES TO SIGN A TREATY FOR RETURN OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL PROPERTY TAKEN BY THE ITALIANS DURING WW II. GREECE SEEMS TO BE ALBANIA'S ONLY FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR. THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOG TOWARDS ALBANIA SINCE KARAMANLIS' RETURN TO POWER HAS BEEN POSITIVE. GREECE RETURNED TO ALBANIA EXHUMED BONES OF A MEDIEVAL ALBANIAN HERO -- AN ACTION RECOGNIZED AS SYMBOLIC BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT TO ALBANIA.

6. ALBANIA IS PREPARED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UK BUT THE BRITISH MUST FIRST RETURN ALBANIAN GOLD "STOLEN" DURING WW II. THEY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, INCLUDING POLITICAL RELATIONS, AND CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AS "POSITIVE".  
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RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, HOWEVER, ARE "CRITICAL". THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER GIVEN UP THEIR DREAM, A CZARIST DREAM, TO REACH THE ADRIATIC. THE ALBANIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ALL FLEETS IN THE ADRIATIC AND MED. (AUSTRIAN COUNS SEEMED EMBASSASSED WHEN ASKED, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ALBANIANS HAD NOTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT US.)

7. DURING DISCUSSION ALBANIANS DID NOT MENTION PRC SO LIEDERMANN RAISED. LLESHI RESPONDED THAT THESE RELATIONS WERE "NORMAL" AND ADDED BRIEFLY THAT IDEOLOGICAL DISPUTES EXIST BUT HAVE NO EFFECT ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER AREAS. A CULTURAL MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD LIEDERMANN THAT RUMORS ABOUT RESPECTIVE PRC AND ALBANIAN PERSONNEL WITHDRAWALS WERE ONLY SPECULATIVE. COOPERATION WAS INTENSIFYING, HE INSISTED. NO CHINESE LEFT TIRANA AND NO ALBANIANS DEPARTED PRC. HOWEVER, ROMANIAN AMB TOLD LIEDERMANN THAT FOR A LONG TIME THE ALBANIANS CONTINUED THEIR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF "GANG OF FOUR", BUT CAMPAIGN CEASED SUDDENLY AND HAS NOT RESUMED.

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8. LLESHI WAS NEGATIVE ON CSCE TERMING IT "CONFERENCE OF  
INSECURITY". AFTER HE GAVE LIEDERMANN TIRANA'S VIEW OF  
CSCE IN GENERAL, HE THEN ASKED LIEDERMANN FOR A BRIEFING ON THE  
BELGRADE CONFERENCE. (TWO WEEKS AFTER LIEDERMAN'S RETURN  
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TO BELGRADE, THE ALBANIAN AMB APPROACHED HIM FOR A COPY  
OF THE NEUTRALS/NON-ALIGNED DRAFT DOCUMENT AND  
SUBSEQUENTLY HAS ASKED HIM FOR OTHER NON-SENSITIVE PAPERS.

9. ON INTERNAL SCENE, OFFICIALS TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE TO  
LIEDERMANN THAT ALL IS CALM AND THAT APL IS UNITED AROUND HOXHA.  
ALBANIANS TOLD LIEDERMANN THAT ALBANIA IS SELF-SUFFICIENT  
IN ENERGY, IS RAISING ITS ELECTRICITY OUTPUT BY  
INCREASING ITS HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION, HAS A WHEAT

SURPLUS, HAS NO INFLATION BUT WITH SALARIES RISING, REAL INCOME IS ALSO INCREASING, AND HAS NO UNEMPLOYMENT. A POSITIVE PICTURE WAS PAINTED ON THE STATE OF THE ARMY. HE WAS TOLD IT WAS EQUIPPED WITH ALL EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO DEFEND AGAINST ANY AGGRESSOR. ROMANIAN AMB, HOWEVER, TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE RUMORS ABOUT UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE ARMY WHICH WANTS MORE THAN IT HAS.

10. WITH THREE DAYS TO SPEND IN TIRANA, LIEDERMANN HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO WALK AROUND AND WAS NOT PREVENTED FROM DOING SO. COMPARED WITH HIS MEMORIES OF PREVIOUS TOURS IN THE GDR AND POLAND, LIEDERMANN'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE ALBANIANS "WERE NOT DOING TOO BADLY". THE ATMOSPHERE WAS NOT SO GRAY AND DESOLATE (AS IN THE GDR AND POLAND). HE NOTED AN ELEMENT OF PRIDE. THE ROMANIAN AMB WHO HAS BEEN IN TIRANA FIVE-SIX YEARS AGREED THAT LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE TOWNS HAD GRADUALLY IMPROVED.

11. LIEDERMANN'S OVERALL IMPRESSIONS WERE:  
ECONOMICALLY THERE IS A BASE FOR A MODEST IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING STANDARDS; THE PRESENT PERIOD IS CALM INTERNALLY; STRONG SENSE OF NATIONALISM IS PRESENT; BUT THE ALBANIANS FEEL ISOLATED AND DESIRE A CAUTIOUS IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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